

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Seamen's Center welcomes world to Miss.

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

Adrian Turner, chaplain and director of the Seamen's Center in Pascagoula, knows what it's like to have the world at his doorstep. As a ministry of the Jackson Association, the Seamen's Center exists to serve the seamen who come in on ships, port workers, Port Authority personnel, truck drivers, anyone who comes into the port. Primary emphasis is on the international seamen who come from all over the world. "It helps me to be a missionary and be able to sleep in my own bed at night!" said Turner, smiling.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the ministry fulfilled a unique role: ministering to the needs of those aboard the Carnival Cruise Lines ship, the *Holiday*. The *Holiday* was brought in to provide temporary housing for people displaced by Katrina.

"We knew the ship was coming months before it arrived," said Turner. "I arranged to go down to meet the captain and pay him a courtesy visit. He had the hotel director, the purser, the security people, and the FEMA officials. I found there were over 150 crewmembers, and I knew there was no way we could offer our regular services to them, such as van rides to town, phone service, things like that."

FEMA did not want the ministry to come on board the ship and pass out Bibles or tracts to the passengers, more from a security standpoint than anything else. Later, the purser called Turner and wanted to know if they could provide services for the crew.

"On Sunday evenings, one of our volunteers, Bruce Nolen, and his wife Jacki would go on board the ship. He had a young lady who was the song leader for the services. The ship provided a keyboard, a projector — there wasn't anything they wouldn't do to support our services. The crew was so appreciative, and when they worshipped and sang, it was from the heart."

Normally, the *Holiday* is docked at its home port in Mobile. While in Pascagoula, the ship provided a ballroom for the worship services. Services began Nov. 13, 2005 through the second week of February, 2006. "We were able to touch some people from Indonesia in the dining hall who didn't come to the worship services," said Turner. "They just insisted we eat with them."

Turner shared the role the ministry endeavors to fulfill year-round. "Our primary objective is to share Christ with seamen," he said. "Our motto or watchword is 'sharing Jesus Christ with the world.' In order to achieve the spiritual aspect of our work, we try to meet physical and emotional needs of those seamen. We provide transportation to town, telephone service, telephone cards, and the recreational facilities at the center at no cost to the seamen. We host video parties, especially on board ships where the seamen can't come off the ship. We go on board the ship — we have a captive audience — and show the 'Jesus' video."

In the six months from January to June of this year, the center has hosted 2,514 seamen representing 21 countries, including Russia, Poland, Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Austria, Italy,

Greece, Turkey, Spain, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Maldives Islands, South Korea, Burma, India, and Croatia. Two-hundred eighty-four copies of Scripture have been distributed, along with 279 copies of the Jesus video. In the five video parties hosted during that period, 49 seamen indicated they had received Christ.

The Seamen's Center facility itself didn't escape Katrina's wrath. The facility was demolished during the storm itself. Funding for the new center was made possible primarily by gifts from Sand Spring Church, Lawrenceburg, Ky., and the Virginia Baptist Convention Board. The Kentucky church voted unanimously to give \$75,000 to purchase a new custom-designed double-wide trailer to house the center, and the Virginia Convention's funds were used to outfit the new center.

Turner states that part of their operating funds from the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. "We use those funds primarily to buy Bibles and to purchase DVDs of the Jesus video from Campus Crusade for Christ," he said. "We pray for continued financial support through the offering, but we also pray that these DVDs that leave here and go into the homes of the seamen continue to be a witness for the Lord. I don't speak the languages of the seamen, but the DVDs are in their native language. It solves the language problem and gives the message so simply that it'd be difficult for any person with any spiritual sensitivity to not understand the Gospel."

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### MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STATE MISSIONS MARGARET LACKEY OFFERING STATE MISSIONS GOAL: \$1.5 MILLION

State Evangelism \$715,000  
Church Planting \$400,000  
Cross Cultural Ministries \$40,000  
Criminal Justice Ministries \$50,000  
College and University Outreach \$25,000  
Associational Mission Projects \$200,000

Missions Mobilization \$500,000  
Volunteer Missionary Assistance \$500,000

Retreat Ministries \$670,000  
Camp Garaywa \$335,000  
Central Hills \$335,000

Human Needs \$130,000  
Disaster Relief \$50,000  
Pastoral Benevolence \$25,000  
Christian Women's Job Corps \$15,000  
Literacy \$25,000





# My Mississippi My Mission

## Hispanic work blossoms on coast in Katrina's wake

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

Reuben Ramirez has been serving as Hispanic Field Coordinator on the Mississippi Gulf Coast since July 1. His initial goal is to start Hispanic churches in Jackson and Gulf Coast Associations. His work is jointly funded by those two associations, as well as the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.

According to Charles Rodgers, Missions Director for Jackson Association in Pascagoula, "Reuben has started out by being a church planter, but ultimately he will be the strategist for an entire planting movement."

"There are many needs among Hispanics in this area," said Ramirez. "Just the other day I met a lady in an apartment complex, and she was looking for a Hispanic church locally. She was asking the manager if there was a church nearby just as we were walking in."

Prior to Ramirez's coming, there was very little Hispanic work going on in the area. Pre-Katrina, there was a church in Bay St. Louis that has since dissolved. There was also a work at Fernwood Church, which is currently being resurrected. Pre-Katrina, there were approximately 20,000 Hispanics on the coast; recent surveys show a number closer to 100,000. One apartment complex surveyed was almost entirely Hispanic.

Ramirez has been called upon by the area school systems in Gulfport and Pascagoula to serve as an interpreter, along with his wife. "That's one way they have been able to connect with people," said Rodgers.

There is a Hispanic group meeting at Calvary Church, Pascagoula, as well as the work at Fernwood. Ramirez has also begun a Bible study at a warehouse in the area for transient workers, and will begin another work at First Church, Gautier.

Most of the area Hispanics come from Mexico, Honduras, as well as other Central American countries, is well-represented, as is Peru, Puerto Rico, and Cuba.

"One important area of work is leadership development," said Rodgers. "He has one young man already surrendered to the ministry from Reuben's previous church in Texas who is going to help." Ramirez was a pastor at Mision Bantista, Friendswood, Texas, prior to coming to the coast. Working with other Hispanic groups in the state, Ramirez plans to both bring in the leadership needed to lead in the new church starts, as well as develop leadership locally.

Another vision that Ramirez has for this area is not only the ministry to the first generation Hispanics who've recently come to this country, but also looking at ministry strategy to second and third generation Hispanics. "These kids are born here, they go to our public schools, they marry, stay here, and have children themselves," said Rodgers. "Our strategy includes a permanent relationship between a Hispanic congregation and an Anglo congregation, in the hopes that there will be some crossover. That won't happen automatically. There may be some intermediate steps to that goal. For instance, you may have Hispanic congregations that worship in Spanish, who then transition to a multilingual worship service, and ultimately have the Hispanics blended into Anglo congregations."

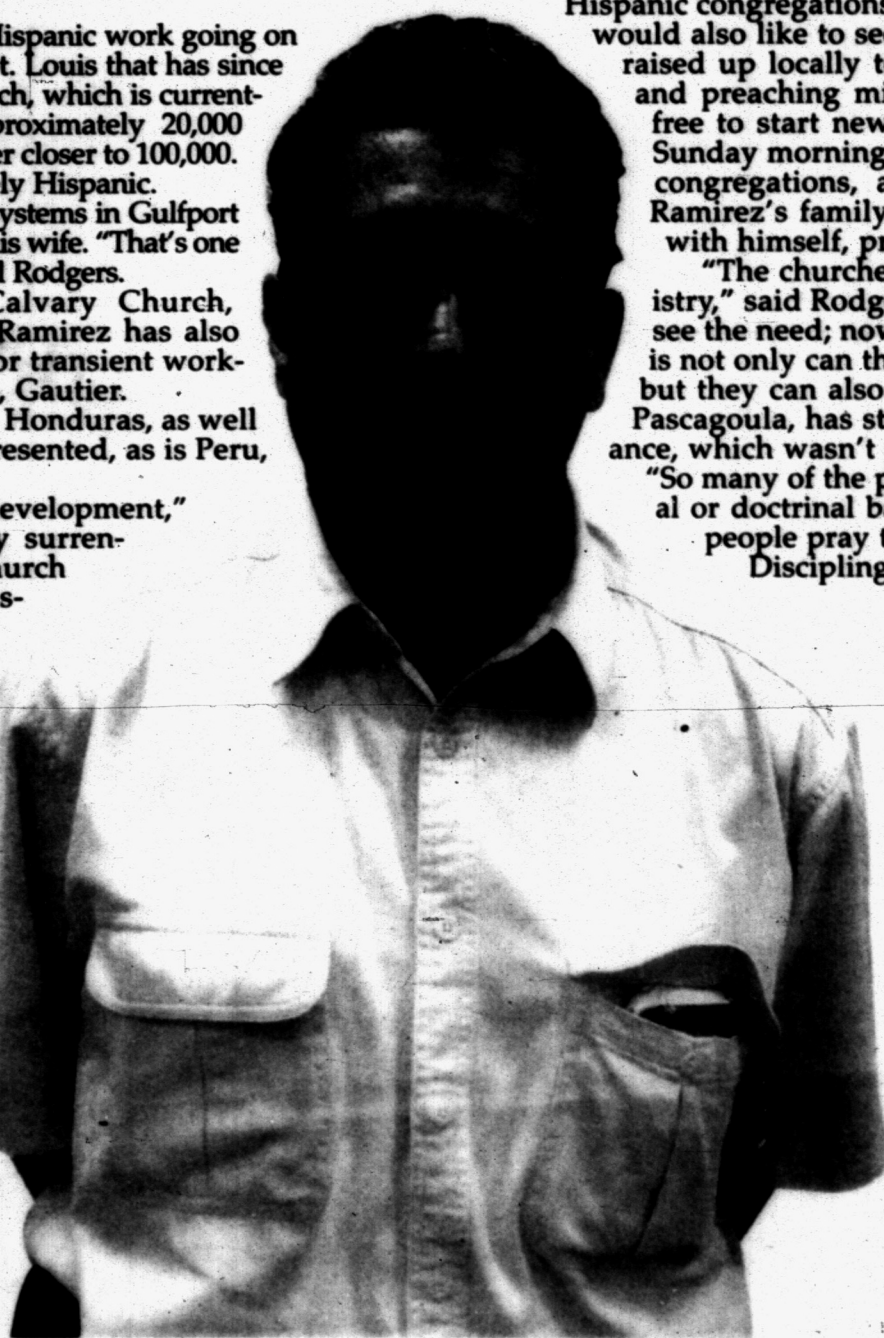
Both current works — Calvary and Fernwood — are averaging about 30 worshippers after less than two months. Ramirez is stressing stewardship to the participants. The two fledgling works both contribute a percentage of their offerings to the home churches, as well as to Ramirez's health insurance needs, ministry needs, Cooperative Program, and associational needs. He has started both congregations at a 10% CP level and a five percent associational level.

"The CEO of Northrup Grummond began visiting Calvary after Katrina and has since joined," said Rodgers. "He is 100% behind this ministry. Both Calvary and Fernwood are dealing with space issues, but soon both the Hispanic congregation and Anglo congregation will meet simultaneously. The Hispanic children will meet with the Anglo children. Ultimately, Hispanic adults will meet with Anglo adults."

Hopes are that within the next year there be two or three strong Hispanic congregations, each taking some ownership of itself. Rodgers would also like to see some mentored ministers either brought in or raised up locally to take over some of the day-to-day operations and preaching ministries of the churches so Ramirez would be free to start new congregations. Currently, Ramirez preaches a Sunday morning and Sunday evening service at the two existing congregations, and will begin a Tuesday service at Gautier. Ramirez's family is involved; his wife and four children, along with himself, provide music for worship.

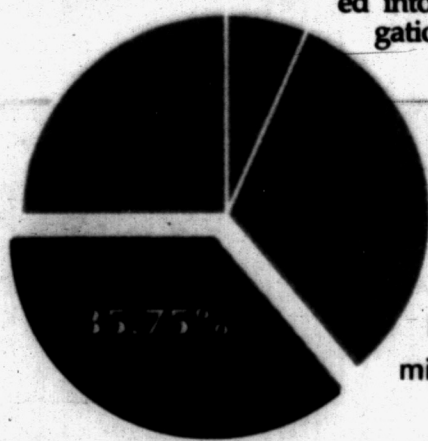
"The churches in the association are totally behind this ministry," said Rodgers. "Prior to Katrina, it was hard to get them to see the need; now they're all on board. What they've come to see is not only can they support this work through Margaret Lackey, but they can also contribute directly. For example, First Church, Pascagoula, has stepped up and is paying half of Reuben's insurance, which wasn't part of the original package."

"So many of the people coming to the area have very little spiritual or doctrinal background," Rodgers continued. "We'd ask that people pray that we can develop leaders to meet these needs. Discipling these people is going to be a lot of work."



### YOUR GIFTS

to the Margaret Lackey  
Offering last year  
coordinated the  
disaster relief efforts  
of more than 30,000  
volunteers following  
Hurricane Katrina.



### State Evangelism, \$715,000

With 57% of Mississippi completely unchurched, evangelistic efforts in the state are of vital importance. Your gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering fund evangelistic efforts by helping start new churches, reach language ethnic and cultural groups, minister to prison inmates, minister to college students and their families, and assist associations with local mission projects.



Mississippi,  
Field ...

## Friendship House drawing students, families to Christ

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Cathy Curtis has an idea what it's like to be lonely and thousands of miles from home.

A former Southern Baptist International Mission Board worker in West Africa for 12 years, she understands the value of an embracing smile and warm welcome so far from familiar and comfortable surroundings.

That's one of the big reasons she felt led four years ago to become director of the Crossroads International Fellowship House at Mississippi State University (MSU) in Starkville.

"The mission of the Crossroads International Fellowship House is to share the love of Jesus in word and deed with international students and families who come from all over the world to study at MSU," she pointed out. "We want them to feel that they have come to a community where they are accepted."

As for the local Baptist volunteers who work with internationals in the Crossroads program, "we want to give these global-minded Christians a place to minister in the name of Jesus, right here at home."

The concept certainly appears to be working, with an overflow crowd of international students and their families attending the Welcome to America dinner on the evening of August 24 at the spacious Baptist Student Union (BSU) on the MSU campus. The annual event is sponsored by Golden Triangle Association and the MSU BSU to familiarize the new students with BSU activities.

The international students and their families were able to mingle with BSU members and local Baptist volunteers while sampling an array of appealing American and international dishes. Conversations mixing people with heavily-accented English and Mississippi's famous southern drawl could be heard throughout the gathering.

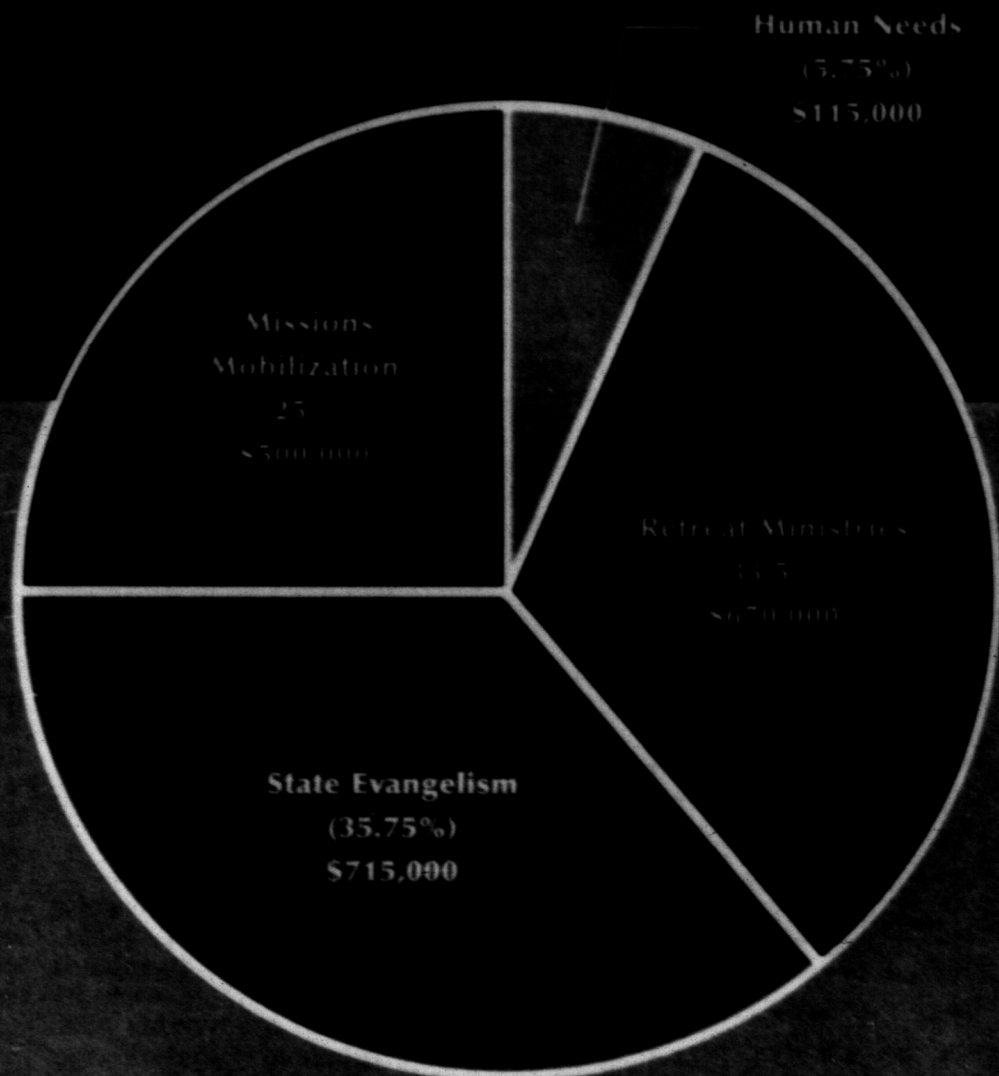
One of the goals of the Welcome to America event is to familiarize international students and their families with Mississippi Baptists as soon as possible after arrival on the MSU campus. "We strive to connect these students with local churches through our BSU members and the volunteers from local churches," said Curtis, whose husband Clifton is minister of ministries at First Church, Starkville.

Curtis attends the Welcome to America event each year to explain the Crossroads ministry, which includes English as a Second Language classes, fellowship times, weekly Bible studies, Backyard Bible clubs, Vacation Bible School, cooking classes, and a "garage giveaway" during which international students can select from a large variety of donated household items free of charge.

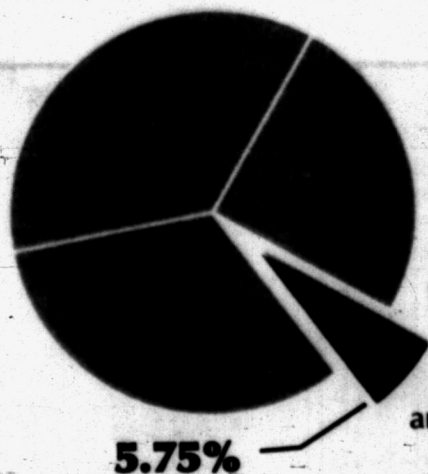
In a report on the Crossroads ministry earlier this year, Curtis told of a Japanese woman who had been influenced by several Christians before coming to America to study. "Once again, here in Starkville she was in contact with Christians who cared about her," Curtis said. "In realizing God's faithful revelation to her through the years, she made a decision to follow Christ and was recently baptized. It was encouraging to see the fruition of many contacts made by faithful witnesses through the years."

The Crossroads International Fellowship House is supported by Golden Triangle Association, local churches, and the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.

"We're grateful for the contributions of Mississippi Baptists that allow us to serve international students in Starkville in Jesus' name," Curtis said.



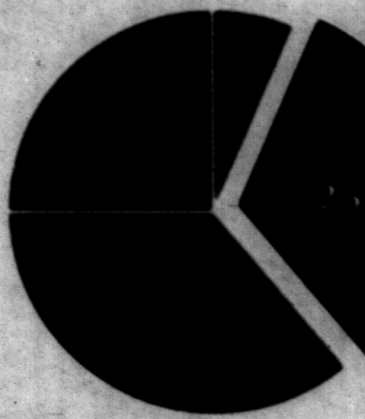
**CHRISTIAN WELCOME** — He Yang (right), a Mississippi State University (MSU) student from Cheng Du in the Sichuan province of China, talks with MSU Baptist Student Union members Sugi Willard (left), a member of Glenfield Church, New Albany, and Kristi Wiltcher, a member of Fairfield Church, Moselle, during Welcome to America night on August 24 at the student union on the school's Starkville campus. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



### Human Needs, \$115,000

Mississippi Baptists touch others in need by being Jesus' hands and feet in many different ways. Over 200 trained volunteers minister to those in crisis through Disaster Relief. CWJC focuses on women caught in a cycle of poverty and offers witness and mentoring. Literacy Ministries address Mississippi's high illiteracy rate and introduces participants to the words of Christ. Also, ministers and congregations often face the stress of life and conflicts. Monies from Margaret Lackey Offering can provide help for counseling and restoration. With help from the Margaret Lackey Offering, thousands of people are touched with Christ's love and provisions.





## Missions Mobilization, \$500,000

Volunteers representing varied backgrounds, skills and gifts, mobilized as world Christians sharing the Gospel through creative and varying means, are on an awesome journey of impacting the world. Mississippi Baptists are experiencing record numbers of short-term volunteers who wish to fulfill the Great Commission by serving both in North America and overseas. Last year, over 10,000 volunteers served all over the world and hundreds of those volunteers received support, on a need basis, from the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering, but still more volunteers are needed. Your gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering will help fellow Mississippi Baptists become Great Commissioners all over the world.

## YOUR GIFTS

Sent over 3,000 kids to camp at Garaywa and Central Hills resulting in 200 professions of faith.

# New church plant in Southaven reaching lost

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Jarrett Jamieson's interest in church planting surfaced while he was a student at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis. He heard a substitute instructor talk about the joy of being a catalyst for new churches that grow into powerful witnesses for Jesus Christ, and he was hooked.

"That was really the first time I'd heard the concepts behind modern church planting, so I took a church growth class. I was fascinated and began working toward a church planting emphasis. I tried to find out everything I could about it," he said.

After receiving his Master of Divinity degree from Mid-America in December of 2004, there was little doubt about the type of ministry in which he would become involved. On the Sunday before Easter 2006, Journey Church was launched in Southaven.

The church originally met in a Chik-Fil-A restaurant that was closed on Sunday, then in members' apartments, but in the span of less than a year has grown enough to rent space at the new Southaven YMCA. Growth has boomed since then.

"We're using every bit of the space the YMCA can give us. We're all over the building. The church averaged 60 in attendance through the summer, and there were 83 people in attendance on the Sunday after school started," recounted Jamieson, age 27, who grew up in Slayden Church, Lamar.

Jamieson has baptized four people in the huge pool at the YMCA, because they told him they didn't want to wait for arrangements to be made to baptize them elsewhere.

"We contemplating a move to two services," he said.

The Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering pro-

vided initial funding and is still providing monthly support to the rapidly-growing church plant. X-tended

Missions Network — the local Baptist association — and a number of churches have also generously supported Journey Church, Jamieson said.

"God used the Margaret Lackey Offering and the people who give to it to help start this church. The offering has helped sustain what we are doing here. We are seeing lost people come to Christ as a result," he said.

Jamieson's mother Onita has been instrumental in promoting the Margaret Lackey Offering ever since she

accepted an invitation to serve as an area coordinator for the offering. Although her term of service has concluded, she hasn't stopped promoting the offering.

"I fell in love with the Margaret Lackey Offering. I thought, 'If we don't care enough to win our own state for Jesus, how can God bless us in other areas?' We decided to give as much as we could and work as hard as we could for the offering."

"I give a lot of credit to my husband Tommy, who has always been missions-minded. At home, there has always been a united front about missions," she said.

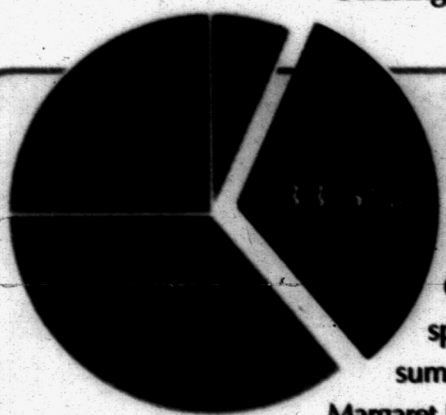


**RAISED TO NEW LIFE** — Jarrett Jamieson, pastor of Journey Church in Southaven, baptizes a new Christian in the pool of the Southaven YMCA, where the church meets each week. Journey is a new church plant that is supported in part by gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. After starting last year in a local Chik-Fil-A restaurant and then moving church members' apartments, the church averaged 60 in attendance at the YMCA throughout the summer and peaked at 83 in attendance on the Sunday after local schools opened. (Special photo courtesy of Journey Church)

Now, Onita Jamieson's family has been specially blessed by Mississippi Baptists' generous support of the Margaret Lackey Offering, which has given her son the opportunity to follow his calling.

"I didn't have a clue about how this would turn out for Jarrett. God saved that special blessing for me. God has given back to me so much more than I ever gave," she said.

"The people who give to the Margaret Lackey Offering need to know that churches are being started and people are being saved," Jarrett Jamieson said, "and that's exciting."



## Retreat Ministries, \$670,000

Each year over 4,000 boys and girls come to GA and RA summer camp at Camp Garaywa in Clinton and Central Hills Baptist Retreat in Kosciusko to learn about Jesus, missions and God's special plan for their lives. In 2005, over 300 life changing decisions were made. In addition to summer camp programs, both camps are year-round facilities for adults and children. Your gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering provides ministry to thousands of people each year.

# Girls answer call each summer at Camp Garaywa

By Erica Harms  
Correspondent

Lined with moss-covered trees and quaint wooden cabins, the serene surroundings of Camp Garaywa, the Mississippi Baptist Girls in Action (GA) encampment in Clinton, offer a perfect getaway from the rush of city life — but that's not the only reason people choose to drive through the camp's gates every year.

"I come back every year because I know what it can do to one camper. I was that camper," said Robin Keels, now Camp Garaywa director. "It was at GA camp that God called me into missions and reminded me of that calling year after year."

Completing her eighth summer at Camp Garaywa, Keels has seen what GA and Acteens can do in the lives of the 250 weekly campers as well as the camp staff.

Sarah Pigford, a junior at Mississippi Baptist-affiliated William Carey University in Hattiesburg, is one of 42 young women on staff this summer. After three years as a

camper, one year working as a cabin leader-in-training, and two years as a full time-staffer, Camp Garaywa is no stranger to her.

"I was so highly influenced here as a camper that I want to be able to have that same kind of influence on campers," she said.

Pigford returned from a mission trip to Peru just days before camp started this summer. "I have a heart for missions both near and abroad. As a GA, our cabin was responsible for praying for Kenya, and I began to realize then that lost people all around the world need Christ. That was the beginning of my present call to missions," she said.

The 2006 camp theme was Life on the Trail, based on 1 Peter 2:21. Each week, campers were taught of their unique creation by God, that Jesus desires to have a personal relationship with each of them, how to grow as a Christian, and what it means to live a missions lifestyle.

Now in its 59th year, Camp Garaywa has been the site where hundreds of people have surrendered their lives to Christ or answered the call to missions.

Nicole Wheat, a sophomore at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, fulfilled a dream she has held since she was a Garaywa camper, when she was able to serve as a cabin leader for the first time this past summer. It was at the age of eight, around a Garaywa campfire, that Wheat gave her life to Jesus Christ.

After attending four GA camps and one Acteens camp at Garaywa, Wheat knew that God wanted her to invest in the lives of future campers. "This camp is the whole reason I'm as outgoing as I am now. I had a cabin leader who was outgoing and I wanted to do everything I could to imitate her. I remember my cabin leader was like a sister to me," she said.

"I like having 14 pairs of eyes looking at me every week. It's hard, but good. These girls come from every walk of life and tell you about it. They're definitely my campers long after they leave," she said.

Camp Garaywa is owned and operated by the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, and supported by gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



9. Disaster Relief, Central Church, Meridian



10. Deacon Ordinations, First Church, Terry



11. Building Project, Flowood Church, Flowood

9. The WMU and other members of **Central Church, Meridian**, delivered paper goods and desserts to the disaster relief team set up at First Church, Bay St. Louis, July 27. Shown are the participants.

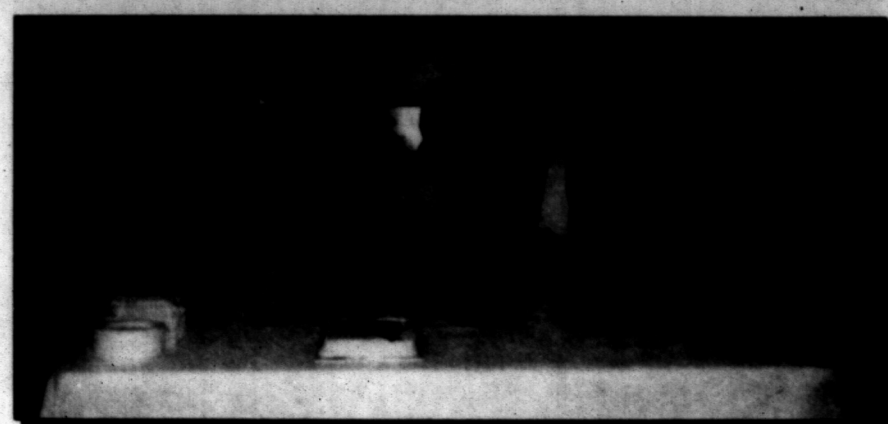
10. **First Church, Terry**, ordained Keith Chandler, Terry Griffin, Brandon Hodges, and Tommy Strickland as deacons Aug. 15. Shown, from left, are pastor John Pace, Griffin, Hodges, Strickland, Chandler, and Terry Hodges.

11. A group of men from **Flowood Church, Flowood**, recently made a mission trip to Magnolia Church, Vancleve, to assist in a building project. Shown are Bob Sartin, Max Mitchell, Carlos Langford, Burt Mott, Donnie Thomas, Ricky Gray, Bill Dunigan, Ray Hall, and Bobby Gene Moore.

12. Mission Friends of **Bethel Church, Louisville**, celebrated the 110th birthday of Mission Friends. Shown are the children and leaders.

13. **Parkway Church, Scott County**, recently ordained John T. Miles to the ministry. Shown are pastor Floyd Davis and Miles. Miles has been called to Galilee Church, Rankin County.

14. **Concord Church, Pelahatchie**, will host Dove Award winner Ann Downing in concert Sept. 3.



12. Mission Friends, Bethel Church, Louisville



13. Miles Ordination, Parkway Church, Scott County

A love offering will be taken. For more information, call (601) 546-2101.

15. **Leaf River Church, Pineville**, will host Charlie Powell, missionary to Mexico, Sept. 3, 11 a.m., followed by a potluck lunch. A love offering will be taken. The church will hold a dedication service Sept.

10, 2 p.m., for their new stained glass windows, following worship and lunch.

16. **Northcrest Church, Meridian**, will present Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames Sept. 10-12, 7 p.m. Doors open 6 p.m. Free admission. For more information, call (601) 482-3498 or visit [www.northcrestbaptist.com](http://www.northcrestbaptist.com).

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**THE GIBSON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR DOM.** Please send resumes to Search Committee: Bob Dennison, 95 Latham Chapel Road Milan, TN 38358.

**THE SIMPSON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS** through September 22, 2006. All resumes should be mailed to 120 Simpson Baptist Drive, Mendenhall, MS 39114, attn: search committee.

**WENGER SEATED RISERS**, like new; seats 52 on risers, includes back rail. Contact Brandon Baptist Church (601) 824-1781.

**MINISTER OF MUSIC AND YOUTH: FARLEY COMMUNITY CHURCH**, a growing SBC in Huntsville, AL, is seeking a full-time Minister of Music and Youth. Send resumes to: Personnel Committee, Farley Community Church, 12302 Bell Road, Huntsville, AL 35803, [personnel@farleycc.org](mailto:personnel@farleycc.org).

**CHURCH FEW UPHOLSTERY**, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

**INTERESTED IN REVIVAL?** Five free booklets in quantity are available to leaders of ministries, Sunday school, and home groups. Visit [www.keytorevival.org](http://www.keytorevival.org) or write: Alliance for Christian Fellowship, Inc., P.O. Box 747, Burnet, TX 78611.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 49 WEST BOYCE ST. MANNING, SC IS SEEKING A FULL TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH/CHILDREN.** Seminary degree required. Send resume to [fbcmanning@tci.net](mailto:fbcmanning@tci.net) or mail to church.

### STATE CHANCES

Tom Sumrall has resigned **Lowery Memorial Church, Blue Mountain**, to enter transitional ministry. He may be reached at 1505 Moss Hill Drive, New Albany, 38652 or (662) 534-0954.



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**IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN VICKSBURG, MISS., IS SEEKING INDIVIDUAL OR INDIVIDUALS TO FILL THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: MINISTER OF MUSIC AND MINISTER OF YOUTH.** Any one that is interested, please send resume to Immanuel Baptist Church, attention personnel committee, 6949 Hwy 61 South, Vicksburg, MS 39180. Or contact Marshall-Thomas at (601) 619-4905 or (601) 218-0392.

**PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, COLLINS.** Submit resume to church at P.O. Box 997, Collins, MS 39428. Phone: (601) 765-6279, fax: (601) 765-4365, email: [fbcollins@megagate.com](mailto:fbcollins@megagate.com).

**JUNIPER GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, POPLARVILLE, MISS., IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH AND A PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC OR A COMBINED POSITION.** Please send resume to Juniper Grove Baptist Church attn: Music/Youth Search Committee, 289 Juniper Grove Rd Poplarville, MS 39470 or call (601) 795-8886.

**DERMA BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a full-time youth minister who has a passion for students and a heart for making a difference. Candidates should submit their resumes to [westam@tds.net](mailto:westam@tds.net).

**JOHNS BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A MINISTER OF MUSIC** for contemporary-style music program. Please send resume to 426 Pineview Lane, Brandon, MS 39042, or Call (601) 824-9404.

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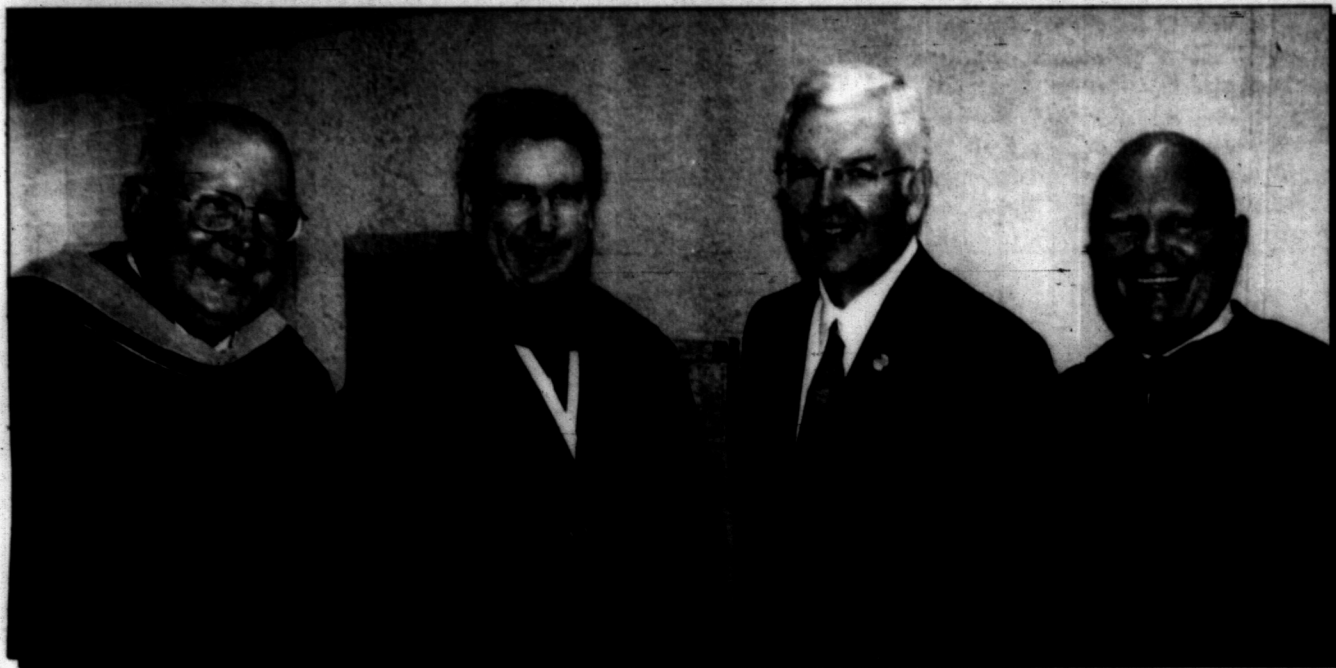
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1. Centennial Convocation Ceremony, WCC



3. Doyle And Dave Ann Wheat Scholarship, WCC

1. Dignitaries and fellow educators from throughout the state of Mississippi joined faculty, staff, students and friends of William Carey University to celebrate the institution's name change during a special Centennial Convocation ceremony held the first day of classes on the Hattiesburg campus. (left to right) Tommy King, executive vice president at WCU; Daniel Jones, vice president of the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson and president-elect of the American Heart Association; Secretary of State of Mississippi Eric Clark; and Mississippi Baptist Convention Executive Director-Treasurer Jim Futral are pictured here before the ceremony. Other

special guests included Hattiesburg Mayor Johnny Dupree; University of Southern Mississippi President Emeritus Aubrey Lucas; and Retired Federal Judge of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals the Honorable Charles Pickering.

2. WHJT\*Star 93.5 FM radio recently made another exceptional showing at the annual Mississippi Association of Broadcasters Awards banquet. The station was recognized by the broadcasters for superior performance in the Mississippi market in spot writing and producing. Competing with other schools from across the state that included Mississippi State, Ole Miss, USM, and Jackson State, WHJT brought

home both gold and silver for a total of five awards in student and faculty categories. WHJT is a commercial radio station owned by Mississippi College and operated by the Communication Department.

3. Tommy King, executive vice president at William Carey University; Argile Smith, vice-president of the office for advancement; Dave Ann and Doyle Wheat of Laurel; and Randall Harris, chair of the department of biology are pictured here on the Hattiesburg campus. The Wickets, graduates and faithful supporters of WCU, recently endowed the Doyle and Dave Ann Wheat Scholarship in Science. Wheat also serves on the WCU Board of Trustees.

4. The Northeast Mississippi Pastor's Conference will host its third annual Healthy Church Conference on September 11 at Blue Mountain College and Lowrey Memorial Baptist Church. The one-day conference for pastors and church staff will feature workshops on retirement planning, IRS and ministers, evangelical preaching, and more. Worship services will be led by Clarence Cooper, Jr., president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; Bob Pitman, pastor of Kirby Woods Church in Memphis; and Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. For more information about the 2006 Conference, contact Ron Meeks at (662) 685-4771 (Ext. 179) or rmeeks@bmc.edu.

## N.C. Baptists building homes

GULFPORT, Miss. (ABP) — It would take an act of God for most people to quit their jobs, move away from friends and family and commit to living for two years in a camper in Katrina-ravaged Gulfport, Miss.

Martha and Eddie Williams were no different, but they chose to respond to that act of God with cheerful hearts. Along with four other couples, the Williamses, who enjoyed a "comfortable, normal" life in North Carolina, moved to Gulfport March 1 to oversee Hurricane Katrina relief and construction operations for two years.

Although the Williams had considered eventually working in missions in some capacity, they had planned to wait until after they retired. God, apparently, had other plans. "We were just being obedient to the Lord," Eddie Williams told Associated Baptist Press. "We didn't come for any honor, praise or glory. We came to help. We just wanted to be obedient."

He and his wife Martha supervise operations at the Gulfport National Guard Armory, the place where the North Carolina Baptist Men's disaster-relief team has centralized operations to build 600 homes in the next two years. On loan from the city of Gulfport, the armory provides a place where the Williams and a staff of 10 can house, feed and coordinate construction jobs for more than 400 volunteers at one time.

The Williams first got permission to use the armory when, in providing more than 13,000 meals to people displaced by the hurricane, they outgrew Pass Road Baptist Church. Once the group moved in to the armory, they completely renovated it as a functioning base camp, adding an industrial kitchen, a prayer garden and other structural renovations.

Material, meals and supplies are funded completely by grants and donations from Baptists and other religious groups, as well as the city of Gulfport. After the Baptist men leave, the armory and its improvements will go back to the city as a "donation" from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Until then, the Williamses and armory staff have their work cut out for them. So far, they've served more than 435,105 meals, completed more than 2,500 home recovery jobs and provided emergency child care for 480 children. They also have built more than 250 homes. The work was done by volunteers from different denominations staying at the armory and in surrounding churches — nearly 1,000 people in the peak week.

"Volunteers just fall in love with the people here," Eddie Williams said. "Word is continuing to spread. They just keep coming. We're averaging over 300 people here a day."

According to Williams, more than 14,000 volunteers have come from almost every state in the union since Sept. 5, 2005. Most come for a week, live in trailers lined with bunk beds, and work long days to provide meals, house restoration and home rebuilding.

It hasn't all been easy, Martha Williams said. She "wasn't ready" for the devastation that would face them in Gulfport — Eddie compared it to his work in Sri Lanka after the 2004 tsunami — and leaving family back in North Carolina proved difficult at first. The couple attended Liberty Hill Baptist Church in Spruce Pine, N.C.

"The hardest thing was coming to a place of peace [about the move]," she said. "I had to leave a job I loved ... but each of our children was extremely supportive."

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# Sanctuary total loss at First Church, Bay St. Louis

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

When Hurricane Katrina roared ashore on August 29 of last year, First Church, Bay St. Louis was at ground zero. The most powerful storm to hit Mississippi since Hurricane Camille in 1969 ravaged the church's facilities, which are located a block off the beach, but saved most of its fury for the sanctuary.

The sanctuary and the kitchen connected to it were deemed by engineers to be too damaged to repair or renovate. Their recommendation was to tear it down like so many other venerable structures along Mississippi's Gulf Coast.

First Church, Bay St. Louis was formally constituted in April of 1896. The church moved to its present location on Main Street in 1947, after a member donated the land and the church was successful in bidding for a World War II surplus U.S. Army chapel from Camp Van Dorn in Centreville.

The sanctuary was renovated around 1998 and new chimes were installed in the steeple, which was toppled by Katrina.

A special Remembrance Service was held on August 27 in the church's newly-repaired fellowship hall, which survived the storm but was also seriously



**SPECIAL SERVICE** — Past and present members of First Church, Bay St. Louis, packed the church fellowship hall on August 27 for a special worship service commemorating the church's sanctuary, which was severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina in late August of last year and will have to be torn down. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

damaged. The mood was overwhelmingly upbeat as members gave testimonies about their memories of the past and anticipation for the future, and the con-

gregation sang songs including Built on a Rock, How Great is Our God, and Shine, Jesus, Shine!

Fred Ferrer, a Georgia Baptist who has made a one-year commitment to do volunteer work in the community from his base at the church, commended church members for their dedication to the storm victims in need all around them and said, "First Baptist Church of Bay St. Louis shines like a beacon in this community."

Bobbye Boyd, who offered a prayer of thanksgiving, said, "Hardly a week goes by that I don't see a van with 'Baptist' on the side. I'm proud to be a Baptist. They have been here since day one."

Brian Rushing, education and youth pastor, recounted his years at the church, and how he had returned to his office after Katrina and found intact his framed certificate of ordination — the only item he was able to recover.

He went on to detail how he has seen God working in the months since the storm, and remarked, "I don't believe I could have gone anywhere in the world and seen as many miracles."

Pastor Al Green Jr. told those gathered for the service that the church will continue to be deeply involved as the community recovers and rebuilds, including providing assistance to Georgia Baptists during their partnership with Baptists in Hancock County.

Green said he is expecting many blessings to come to the church and its members in the future. "God has poured Himself on us," he said.

## Gulfport congregation learns lessons, plans future

**GULFPORT, Miss. (ABP)** — Members of First Church, Gulfport, have learned a lot in the year since Hurricane Katrina destroyed their waterfront church buildings. Mostly they've learned that a church is much more than an edifice.

"It's an exciting time for us," Pastor Chuck Register said. "Probably the most exciting thing for us has been being forced to rethink the New Testament [concept of] what really is the church. The church is not brick and mortar."

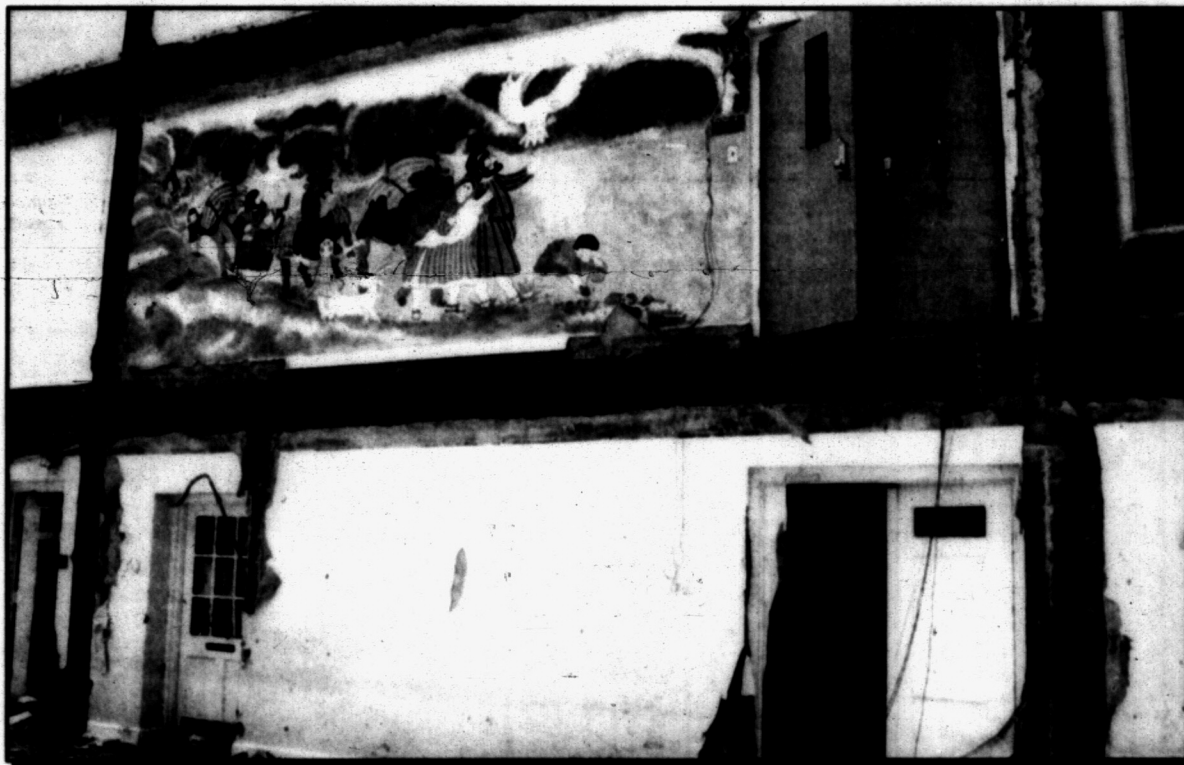
Katrina erased much of Gulfport, a town of 72,000 (before the storm) which hugs the Gulf shoreline. First Church was located a few hundred yards from the water, in the center of downtown.

An Associated Baptist Press photo of the congregation's decimated sanctuary was published around the world, symbolizing the response of faith to tragedy — on the cover of Christian Century and the Baptist Times of London. It even inspired a country-gospel song about indomitable faith.

The sanctuary's ruins are since gone, but the lessons of Katrina live on, Register said. Congregants have learned the joy of fulfilling Christian responsibilities — namely to worship God, spend time with other Christians, and tell other people about Jesus, he said.

The patience to refocus and reflect came gradually, though. After initial elation about surviving the storm, many church members became depressed with the seemingly hopeless state of their ruined homes and the partially abandoned town, Register said.

"We rode the typical disaster psychological profile," Register said, adding that it began with the "euphoric, mountaintop, 'we're survivors' mentality" and progressed to a subdued resignation.



**ALL THAT REMAINS** — A second-floor wall mural at the ruins of First Church, Gulfport, is all that remains of a wing of the complex that was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and razed. The mural depicts the parting of the Red Sea and the Israelites' miraculous escape from the Egyptian Pharaoh's army. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

"If you follow that curve, you get to a point where reality sets in, and you realize that this is going to be a long-term recovery," he said. "There is a deep emotional cavern that follows and then eventually you follow that out past the one-year anniversary, and things begin to pan out to a more normal routine. This is going to be a multiyear process."

Founded in 1896, the church had to demolish its current sanctuary, built in 1967, and the three-acre plot of beachfront land where it stood is now up for sale. Demolition crews began tearing down other church

buildings June 21, so current Sunday services are at Gulfport High School's auditorium.

Meanwhile, the congregation has bought a 34-acre site several miles north of the Gulf. Phase one of the new project will be finished in March 2008, Register said, and the church will raise money for the project with the help profits from the three-acre plot sale.

Financially, Register said, the church has fared relatively well. While Sunday morning numbers have dropped in recent months, often because people work on restoring their houses on Sunday, the congregation has been "extremely blessed" in meeting its budget. They also have information posted online about how to give money for disaster relief and to the congregation.

Register also continues to lead the congregation in prayer to be more outwardly focused on the Gulfport community, something that could elude them as they begin a building project.

"The biggest challenge has been trying to help a community that is 80 percent unchurched to see that with Christ there is hope," he said. "Through Christ, even in the midst of challenges, his grace is sufficient."

Help from Southern Baptist volunteers has aided that outreach, Register added. The work has given Baptists an inside advantage in the community, especially when people see that "it's Christians who put their roof on, who took the trees off their house...."

"What we discovered is that when the church loves as she should love, we bring a sense of hope to those families," he said. "They see that people do care. They are interested and they want to help. With the help of our community and churches and our spiritual community, we will be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel."



## THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

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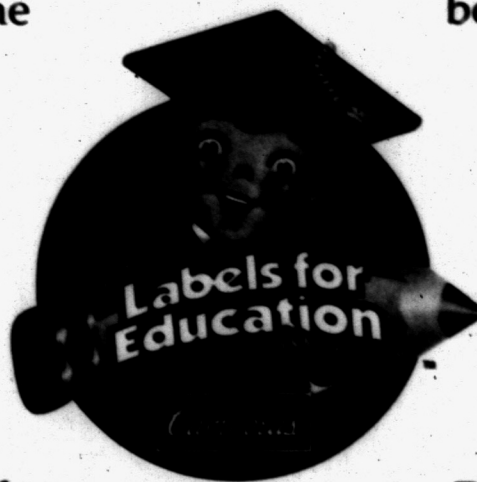
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## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Who Me? A Leader?

Joshua 1:1-15

By Arthur Story

When people are approached with the possibility of leading their hearts start pumping, butterflies start fluttering in their stomachs, their hands start sweating, and their minds start racing. Depending on the individual these reactions have differing meanings. For some they are the result of fear. For others they are the result of exhilaration. For many they are an indication of a combination of both fear and excitement.

Most of us have some reservations when thinking about being a leader. We think of well known, influential leaders like politicians, CEOs, activists, mega-church pastors, etc. and then we question our ability to lead. Yet in reality each of us is a leader. We lead daily by example and in our influence. We do

it at home, at work, in church, at school, and in everyday interactions with others.

Leadership isn't about having a title even though there are times when a title comes with the responsibility. Leadership is serving as a model for others and influencing them to follow your example. Leadership is a combination of demonstrating, communicating, and motivating. To that degree each of us is capable of serving as a leader.

God's call to Joshua to lead His people in Joshua 1:1-15 gives us a clear perspective on how He can use each of us in different areas of leadership in our lives.

#### Step Up

Joshua probably had some reservations when God called him to lead the people but he was willing to honor God's call. He knew Moses was the only



Story

leader the people had ever known. He had witnessed the times when the people resisted following Moses' leadership. Yet in responding to God's call, Joshua had a clear understanding of what God expected of him (v. 2-5) and a confidence that comes with knowing that God would be with him in the process (v. 5).

Like Joshua, we should never allow circumstances to influence our willingness to follow God's call to lead. When God calls us to lead He is with us. He shows us what He expects of us as He did with Joshua. Regardless of the circumstances, He can use us.

#### Stand Firm

Steadfast leadership is maintained by obedience to the specific responsibilities entrusted to us by God. God gave Joshua clear instructions (v. 2-5, 6). His success in leadership depended on his obedience to God. To hold to his God-given work, Joshua would need to heed God's instruction to study and meditate on His Word (v. 8). By remaining focused on

his responsibility to God (not man), staying in His Word, and depending on Him, Joshua would be able to be a "strong and courageous" leader.

As His servants, God has given each of us various realms of leadership responsibility. As we serve Him as parents, church leaders, business people, etc., His presence, His Word, and His commission to us enable us to faithfully and confidently serve Him. That being said, it is essential that we remain close to Him in order to stand firm as His leaders in the world.

#### Give Clear Direction

Joshua gave clear instructions to the "officers of the people" just as God gave clear instructions to Joshua (v. 10-11). God's plan for His people needed to be communicated to His people. Joshua couldn't have adequately done this alone. He had to delegate responsibility to other leaders.

None of us can do it all ourselves. We must communicate the work that needs to be done, model that work through a visible commitment to it, and motivate people to do the work.

These simple actions will make a dramatic impact in the advancement of the work God has entrusted to us.

#### Establish Accountability

Every leader has the difficult responsibility of holding people accountable. Nonetheless, we need to remind them and motivate them to live up to their commitments as Joshua did (v. 12-15). This transfers universally to every area of leadership — parenting, managing employees, leading in Sunday School, etc. It's not enough to model behavior, give instruction, and work to motivate people to follow. As leaders, we need to inspect the work of followers and hold them accountable. Not to chastise or exert authority, but to further instruct, encourage, and train others for leadership.

Who Me? A Leader? Yes you! As God calls each of us to lead in various areas of life, He instructs us, empowers us, and promises to be with us in the process.

Story is Minister of Education, First Church, Louisville.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Pay Attention!

Hebrews 1:1-8, 14; 2:1-4

By Cyndi Grace

This quarter we are going to study one of the most distinctive books in the New Testament. While we do not know the author many believe it to be Paul; some believe it to be Barnabas because of the encouraging message, whereas others have different opinions. While we don't know who wrote it we do know why it was written and that is its significance for us today. Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians who were undergoing persecution and were either becoming complacent in their Christian lives or were considering a return to Judaism. These second generation Christians needed a reminder of who Christ is and why they had followed Him. Thus the author begins a discourse to encourage them to stay the course.

The book begins with a brief history of how God had previously spoken through nature, prophets, and angels, (or messengers.) In verse 2, however, we find the words "in these last days" He spoke by His Son." The term "last days" clearly meant Jesus was the final revelation and is superior to any prophet, angel, or Jewish tradition to which they had once held. For emphasis the writer quotes from Deuteronomy, 2 Samuel and the Psalms to confirm Jesus was the fulfillment of all covenant prophecies. These Christians had known and happily received this when they accepted Jesus as the Messiah but as hard times came they needed encouragement to stand firm in this truth.

George Barna, a statistician, states today's average Christian is no different than a non-



Grace

Christian in the way they live their lives. If that is the case, perhaps today's church needs this Hebrew's reminder, as well. While we are not being actively persecuted we are bombarded by various thoughts and ideologies, even within our churches and since it is easier to go with the flow many well-meaning church members are being drawn away from the truth of the gospel. How can this be? Perhaps we don't know any better! Perhaps, as Hebrews 2:1 says, we have not given earnest heed to the Word of God. It is amazing how illiterate many Christians are about the things of God. For some, Bibles are weekly picked up, dusted off for church, and put back on the shelf when arriving home. When we are ignorant of what God has said, it is easy to fall for false doctrine, become discouraged or be complacent for without the word we have no truth, encouragement or conviction.

Hebrews warns of a drifting away. (2:1) It is hard to believe that one who truly claims the name of Jesus would intentionally turn from the ways of God but if they are not actively pursuing the truth of God's word they will begin to drift from it. A ship without power drifts to places not intended and many run aground far from the intended destination. Without the power of God through His word in our lives, we also will find ourselves far from where God intended us to be.

So, what is the answer? Just as the title of the lesson states: Pay attention!

• Pay attention to who we worship. It is Jesus, who is God incarnate; the first and last, the beginning and the end. He is above all and amazingly, He loves us! Let this encourage us to stand firm when hard times come ... and they will.

• Pay attention to the warnings of this book and honestly examine ourselves in our walk. Christianity is a constant moving toward the things of God. Be aware of a drifting away or a standing

still for both will hinder the life Christ intends for us.

• Pay attention to the future glory. In Hebrews 12:2 we see Jesus maintained His earthly walk by keeping the "joy" before Him. Our completed joy will be on that day when we see Him face to face and that knowledge alone should encourage us to bear whatever obstacle is before us.

Once while singing a familiar hymn I noticed the words became louder in my spirit and I knew God had a word for me. Those same words are a great closing for today's lesson.

*Praise to wonder, Lord, I feel it,  
Praise to love the God I love.  
Take my heart, Lord,  
Take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above!*

Let this quarter's lessons be a time of sealing what we know to be true so we can stand firm in our faith.

Grace is a women's conference speaker and women's ministry director at Highland Church, Vicksburg.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.

# Record

Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



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AQ VIPX IAWXY GC VRF,  
IHY VX NGMDY VIPX  
URPXH QVXX DRPRHU  
NIQXE.

BCVH CGME: QXH

Clue: B = I

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Four: Forty-Three.

# NOBTS springs back from Katrina blow

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—At New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS), the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina is more about looking forward than looking back. More about God's provision, less about painful memories. More about ministry, less about mourning.

Seminary professors and students have said as much with their actions. They have returned to campus to continue to train and be trained for ministry. They have returned to be witnesses in the city of New Orleans.

"All throughout our seminary family there has been a confidence in God and commitment to the future and a real attitude of love and grace and mutual support," NOBTS President Chuck Kelley said. "We are going to mark the anniversary of Katrina by having a worship and ministry day."

Classes were cancelled Aug. 29. Beginning that morning, the Louisiana Baptist Convention provided disaster relief training in Leavell Chapel. The seminary family will then gathered for worship and remembrance followed by a meal together.

After lunch, students and faculty members were sent out into the community to clean, cut grass, gut homes, and prayerwalk.

"This will be more than a one-day effort, it will formally launch our seminary's ministry in the community," Kelley said.

On Aug. 16, the seminary marked yet another important milestone on the long road to recovery — the start of fall classes. From the first post-Katrina meeting of seminary officials Sept. 1, just days after the storm, to the May 13 graduation service on the main campus, all the milestones were leading to this one.

While the official enrollment count for the fall semester will not be finalized for months,

Kelley said he is "very encouraged" by the preliminary count. "It looks like our new student count is close to last year's new student count, which is a pleasant surprise," he said. "We are very pleased."

Once again the campus is buzzing with normal NOBTS activity. Early morning joggers fight their way through the humid air. Students, weary from late-night study of Greek and Hebrew, rush to their classes. Children gather around piñatas during birthday parties at Sunshine Park.

The pain of the past year is healing with time. Now when members of the seminary family talk about their Katrina experiences, they talk usually about God's goodness. One of the things mentioned most is the kindness of Southern Baptist churches and individuals.

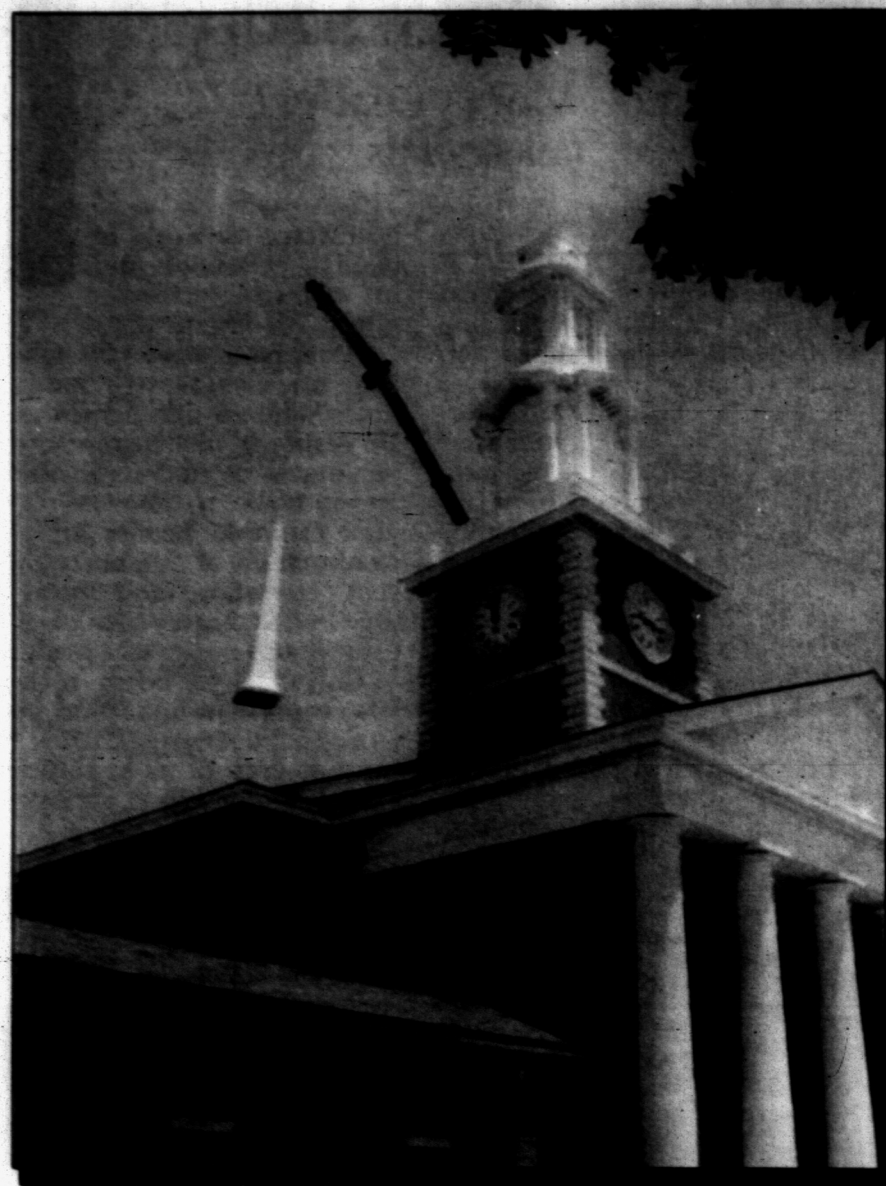
"The Katrina experience has been an absolutely brutal experience for our seminary and its families," Kelley said. "No words will ever adequately describe the loss and the heartache, suffering and trials that our seminary family has been through. However, that is not what stands out to me."

The way Southern Baptists moved quickly to meet the needs of the seminary family and needs throughout the hurricane zone is the real story of Katrina, Kelley said, noting, "It certainly has been [Southern Baptists'] finest hour in demonstrating the love and grace of God to the world."

It was the generosity of Southern Baptists that kept the seminary from major financial crisis. Less than a month after the storm, the SBC Executive Committee — with unanimous support from SBC entity heads — voted to redirect beyond-the-budget 2004-05 Cooperative Program receipts for national causes in order to support disaster relief needs.

of the seminary, the three state conventions most affected by the hurricane and the North American Mission Board. This action resulted in a special gift of \$6.2 million for NOBTS.

Gifts from individual Baptists and churches also played a key role in the school's dramatic recovery.



**SPECIAL CARE** — With the help of a large crane, workers lift the 46-foot spire section off the Leavell Chapel steeple at New Orleans Seminary. The Katrina-damaged steeple was completely removed and will be replaced in the coming months with a stronger frame to resist future storms. (BP photo by Jimmy Cole)

This sacrificial giving covered many expenses that insurance did not, such as vital financial relief for students, professors and staff members in need.

Southern Baptist volunteers came by the thousands to the seminary campus. They cleaned and painted seminary apartments and houses. They laid new sod throughout the campus. Their free labor saved the seminary millions of dollars in restoration costs.

Kelley lauded Southern Baptist volunteers for their work throughout the Gulf Coast region. Feeding units, home gutting crews, clean-up teams, and chaplains fanned out in the hurricane zone sharing the love of Christ.

Because of their kindness following the storm, Kelley believes Southern Baptists have a unique opportunity to influence the city of New Orleans as it redevelops. Historically, Baptists have been a "small voice" in the city, he said, but Southern Baptist disaster relief teams changed that.

"We are sowing the seeds of the Gospel at every level of the New Orleans culture and in all of its neighborhoods," Kelley said. "I think in five to 10 years there is going to be a great harvest in our churches. I think we have an incredible opportunity to be a witness for the Gospel."

Kelley said he continues to be inspired by the work of the NOBTS faculty in the early days of the seminary's recovery effort. While he worked to establish temporary offices in Decatur, Ga., days after the storm, NOBTS professors formulated a plan to continue the fall semester.

"I do not know of a more heroic performance by a theological faculty in the history of this nation," Kelley said. "In the midst of having to deal with their own losses, they developed completely new ways to teach. They kept preparing their students for ministry during this whole experience."

On Oct. 3, just over a month after the storm, the courses that started on the main campus continued via online discussion-based instruction — the only way to meet the needs of a student body dispersed to 32 different states.

Kelley also lauded the commitment of NOBTS students. Despite tremendous losses of material possessions and irreplaceable family photographs and mementos, 85 percent of the students who started before Katrina continued their coursework.

During the darkest days of the Katrina experience, Kelley said he saw in the seminary family "the character and faith of Christians at its finest."

## NOBTS milestones

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — From the first meeting of New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) officials after Hurricane Katrina, numerous milestones were reached as the campus moved toward the full resumption of classes Aug. 16. The following timeline recaps the seminary's recovery to date:

### 2005

Aug. 29 — Hurricane Katrina hits; levee failures leave NOBTS and the city under water.

Sept. 1 — NOBTS officials meet in Decatur, Ga., to work on a plan to provide relief of seminary families and continue the fall semester.

Sept. 12 — Campus cleanup and restoration begins.

Sept. 27 — NOBTS trustees unanimously vote to keep the seminary in New Orleans.

Oct. 3 — Fall main campus courses continue via reformulated online study.

Oct. 5-9 — Seminary residents return to campus to salvage personal items.

Oct. 31 — SBC volunteers began helping with NOBTS campus restoration.

Dec. 17 — 137 graduates receive NOBTS degrees in first post-Katrina graduation in Birmingham.

### 2006

Jan. 11 — A limited number of NOBTS offices return to the main campus.

Jan. 23 — Commuter courses begin on the main campus; more than 200 students take classes in New Orleans. Online courses continue for displaced students.

April 24 — All main campus offices return to NOBTS.

May 13 — Seminary celebrates spring graduation on the main campus, with 241 students participating.

June 6 — Students begin moving back to campus.

Aug. 1 — NOBTS resumes normal campus operations; campus restoration more than 80% complete; SBC volunteers have saved NOBTS over \$2 million in repair costs.

Aug. 16 — Fall classes begin.

Aug. 29 — NOBTS marks the Katrina anniversary with ministry projects in the city.